

# **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RECREATION FEE PROGRAM SUMMARY FY11 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**NAME OF FEE PROJECT:** AZ11 LOWER COLORADO RIVER AMENITY FEE **STATE:** AZ  
**PROGRAM**

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## **DESCRIPTION:**

The Lower Colorado River Amenity Fee Program includes nine developed recreation sites: (1) Betty's Kitchen Watchable Wildlife Viewing Area and National Recreation Trail, (2) Senator Wash Boat Launch and Day Use Area, (3) Senator Wash North Shore Campground, (4) Senator Wash South Shore Campground, (5) Squaw Lake Campground and Boat Launch, (6) Oxbow Recreation and Wildlife Area, (7) Ehrenberg Sandbowl Off-Highway Vehicle Area, (8) Imperial Dam Long-Term Visitor Area (between April 16 and September 14 of each year), and (9) La Posa Long-Term Visitor Area (between April 16 and September 14 of each year). These nine recreation amenity sites provide a variety of developed recreational amenities and services. Several of the sites provide recreational access to the lower Colorado River and its associated backwaters and serve as regional destinations for public land visitors throughout the year. The recreation sites enhance the quality of life for local residents and visitors to the area. There is also a significant contribution to the regional economy from the recreation based activities.

## **FEE SCHEDULE:**

Ehrenberg Sandbowl Off-Highway Vehicle Area: \$5.00 per calendar day/ per vehicle

All other sites:

Day-use fee: \$10.00 per vehicle

Overnight fee: \$15.00 per vehicle

Annual permit: \$75 (honored at all Yuma Field Office Amenity Recreation Sites including Ehrenberg Sandbowl)

## **SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY11:**

### **Visitor Services, Interpretation:**

Recreation fees support agency staff and volunteers who maintain facilities such as kiosks that provide information about the local area. Volunteer campground hosts are available on-site year-round to assist visitors.

### **Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement:**



Many signs such as the one pictured above were refurbished by volunteers and installed by interns who are a part of the Yuma Field Office Youth Initiative. It is estimated that approximately \$80,000 worth of signing throughout the field office was saved as a result of volunteers and interns. A large portion of the funds for materials and equipment and contractors needed for the maintenance of recreation facilities continues to be provided by recreation fee revenues. Labor costs for BLM staff and reimbursements for volunteers who operate and maintain facilities are also covered. In FY 2011, recreation fees continued to support youth projects.

### **Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Resource Protection:**

Volunteers assist resource protection efforts through routine monitoring of the recreation areas. A large catastrophic wildfire destroyed the Betty's Kitchen National Recreation Trail & Interpretive Area in FY 11. Recreation fees will support youth groups who are coming forward to assist ongoing habitat restoration efforts at this important recreation fee site in the Yuma Field Office.

### **Law Enforcement – Public Use and Recreation:**

A portion of the labor and equipment funding for Law Enforcement Officers who routinely patrol the recreation areas is covered by recreation fees. During busy holiday weekends, collected fees support officers from adjacent offices who are brought in to assist with visitor security and resource protection efforts.

### **PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY12:**

Collected recreation fees will continue to support costs associated with garbage collection, facility maintenance, and on-site visitor services and provide funding for BLM staff and volunteers who conduct the operation and maintenance of the recreation fee sites. Youth projects that promote public land stewardship by involving youth in the improvement of interpretive facilities, trail work, and other facility maintenance and resource protection duties are projected for FY12 and will be supported by recreation fees.